

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8410

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS ST

SUBJECT: ARAB TERRORISTS IN NETHERLANDS AND ISRAELI

VIEW OF ARAB REACTION TO INTERIM AGREEMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 4808

1. IN DISCUSSION SEPT 23 OF ARAB REACTION TO SIGNING OF EGYPT-ISRAEL INTERIM AGREEMENT, DIRECTOR OF MFA DIVISION OF MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS (VERED) CITED ATTEMPT BY SYRIAN-LINKED SAIQA TO SEIZE HOSTAGES FROM WARSAW-AMSTERDAM TRAIN AS EXAMPLE OF LENGTH TO WHICH SYRIA WAS WILLING TO GO TO DISCREDIT EGYPTIAN ACTION. (COMMENT: VERED, TOGETHER WITH MANY ISRAELIS, WORKS ON ASSUMPTION THAT SYRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ALL SAIQA ACTIVITIES.) SHE SAID SHE FEARED THAT PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS IN PARTICULAR MIGHT ATTEMPT MORE SUCH SPECTACULARS IN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. IN MORE GENERAL VEIN, VERED SAID THAT INTENSITY

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OF ARAB CRITICISM OF EGYPT WAS ABOUT WHAT ISRAEL HAD

EXPECTED. SHE CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT MORE VISCERAL REMARKS OUT OF DAMASCUS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED SPECIFICALLY TO BAATH PARTY RATHER THAN TO GOVERNMENT. SHE ALSO EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT RELATIVE SILENCE ON PART OF QADHAFFI, FOR WHICH SHE COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION.

3. VERED VOICED OPINION THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA WOULD IN TIME FIND WAY TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES, PROBABLY IN TYPICAL ARAB FASHION OF RELYING ON THIRD-PARTY INTERMEDIARY. SHE FELT THAT KING HUSSEIN WAS TRYING TO MANEUVER HIMSELF INTO BEING ABLE TO PLAY THAT ROLE WHEN TIME WAS RIGHT, BUT BELIEVED THAT SAUDI KING KHALID STILL HAS "MORE OF WHAT IS NECESSARY" TO BRING TWO PARTIES TOGETHER.
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